

Responses to Frequently Asked Questions

Purpose of Four Mile Creek Greenway Corridor - Preliminary Alignment Study

- This study is a joint venture between the Town of Matthews and Mecklenburg County.
- Identifying a preferred alignment allows costs and real estate needed for the greenway to be considered to support future project funding.

Funding

- There is no capital funding allocated for the development of Four Mile Creek Greenway.
- For the County, Capital Improvement Plans span 5 years. The next Mecklenburg County Capital Improvement Plan will select projects to be funded from Fiscal Year 2024-2029.
- The existing Capital Improvement Plan for the Town of Matthews does not reflect funding for this project within the next five (5) years.

Location

- This greenway corridor is ~ 11 miles long and expands from McAlpine Creek Greenway (at Johnston Rd.) to Mecklenburg County Regional Sportsplex at Matthews.
- The Four Mile Creek Greenway Corridor has long been identified on the Mecklenburg County Greenway Master Plan and the Town of Matthews Bicycle - Pedestrian Connectivity Plan.
- The greenway alignment has been heavily influenced by issues related to constructability such as topography, floodplain, SWIM buffers (greenways are allowed in both floodplain and SWIM buffers), wetlands, access, destinations, utility corridors and adjacencies.
- The preliminary alignment studies 7 of the total 11 mile corridor. Four (4) miles of greenway, in both Matthews and Charlotte, are already constructed and open to the public.

Land Acquisition

- This preliminary planning identifies which side of the creek is preferred and considers the layout of the trail.
- Any land that is needed to accommodate the greenway will require extensive conversation and collaboration with the individual property owners. Property owners may donate property or be compensated for affected portions of their property.

Continued Public Input

- A public meeting for the introduction of the Preliminary Alignment Study was held on December 12, 2018 in the Matthews Town Hall. This meeting was advertised by Mecklenburg County via mail of postcards to residents adjacent to the creek. In addition, the meeting was posted on both the Mecklenburg County and the Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation websites. The Town of Matthews posted meeting details on www.matthewsnc.gov and used social media to promote the meeting information.
- Comments from that public meeting have been received and considered in the revised maps. The entire 7 miles is not likely to be constructed as 1 project, but as 2-3 projects. In the future, as each project moves into design, a public meeting will be held for review and comment.
- Questions and Comments about the Four Mile Creek Greenway Corridor are always welcome. Contact Corey King, Director of Matthews Park and Recreation at cking@matthewsnc.gov; 704-708-1263 or Gwen Cook, Mecklenburg County Greenway Planner at Gwen.Cook@MeckNC.gov; 980-314-1036.

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Flooding

- The greenway does not increase flooding. Permitting requirements will include a flood model that must insure that the greenway does not cause a rise in the 100-year flood.
- The greenway trail may reduce some flooding. Mecklenburg County Park and Recreation will discuss the greenway project with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Storm Water Services to determine if, in the future, a stream restoration or enhancement project could address both water quality and water quantity issues in the creek.

Safety and Crime

- Unfortunately, crime can be found everywhere. Crime on County greenways have been studied by UNC Charlotte and data has shown that greenways do not increase crime rates. Crime rates remain consistent with the neighborhood the trails pass through, or may be slightly decreased by the presence of the greenway and increased citizen visibility in these areas.

Wildlife and Natural Habitat

- Any construction disrupts the flow of wildlife, at least during active construction. We have found, however, that deer and coyote return even in the evening hours. The long, linear nature of this construction has less impact on wildlife and natural habitat than more open clearcutting that would be necessary for subdivision or similar construction. Once the greenway is complete, it becomes part of the landscape. Most wildlife (including birds) seems to settle in well and accommodate people. More wildlife sightings can be anticipated. The presence of many, many deer are reported on existing greenways. We have seen dDoes not provide fund- ing for the actual greenway project, but the partner's eer hop fences at Four Mile Creek Greenway in Matthews with people standing within 50' of them.
- In regard to habitat, the County works with TreesCharlotte to place additional trees on areas adjacent to trail shoulders. Trail shoulders are normally mowed 5' on each side of the trail, allowing the adjacent land to return to a natural state.

Noise and Privacy

- Greenways are normally quiet places to be even when heavily used. Greenways are not typically screened.

Impact on Private Property

- Building a greenway will have varied impact on adjacent properties. Impacts can be discussed with Real Estate staff during land acquisition. We ask for patience during the process because the completed greenway will be a wonderful community asset connecting to an extensive network of other greenways.